

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/919,853
Attorney Docket No. Q65690

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been examined. Claims 2-4, 6-10 and 16-18 are allowed. Furthermore, the Examiner objects to claims 11, 13-15 and 19 (insofar as they depend upon claim 5) as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but acknowledges that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 5 and 12 are rejected under the art of record.

Applicants place the application in condition for immediate allowance by canceling rejected claims 1, 5 and 12 and rewriting objected-to claims 11/5, 14/5 and 19/5 in independent form as new claims 20, 21 and 22, respectively. Furthermore, Applicants add new claims 23 and 24 to capture the subject matter of allowable claims 13/11/5 and 15/11/5, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments place the application in condition for immediate allowance with claims 2-4, 6-11, 12/6-10 and 13-24.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/919,853
Attorney Docket No. Q65690

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Billy Carter Raulerson
Registration No. 52,156

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 30, 2004